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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/073,596	05/06/1998	RALPH M. STEINMAN	20164000USS	9977
43852	7590	08/02/2007	EXAMINER	
MERIX BIOSCIENCE, INC. 4233 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE DURHAM, NC 27704			EWOLDT, GERALD R	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1644				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/02/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/073,596	STEINMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	G. R. Ewoldt, Ph.D.	1644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 89,91,92,94,95,99,101,103-113,115-121 and 140-144 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 89,91,92,94,95,99,101,103-113,115-121 and 140-144 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed 5/22/07 in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's amendment and remarks filed 4/11/07 have been entered.

2. Claims 89, 91, 92, 94, 95, 99, 101, 103-113, 115-121, 140, 141, and newly added Claims 142-144 are pending.

3. In view of Applicant's amendments the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, have been withdrawn.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims 89, 91, 92, 94, 95, 99, 101, 103-113, 115-121, 140, 141, and newly added Claims 142-144 stand/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Pancholi et al. (1992).

As set forth previously, Pancholi et al. teaches a pharmaceutical composition comprising human dendritic cells (DCs) pulsed with tuberculosis antigens (see particularly page 218, last paragraph).

The reference clearly anticipates the claimed invention.

Regarding product-by-process claims, MPEP 2113 states:

"[E]ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985), and

"The Patent Office bears a lesser burden of proof in making out a case of *prima facie* obviousness for product-by-process claims because of their peculiar nature" than when a product is claimed in the conventional fashion. *In re Fessmann*, 489 F.2d 742, 744, 180 USPQ 324, 326 (CCPA 1974). Once the examiner provides a rationale tending to show that the claimed product appears to be the same or

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similar to that of the prior art, although produced by a different process, the burden shifts to applicant to come forward with evidence establishing an unobvious difference between the claimed product and the prior art product. *In re Marosi*, 710 F.2d 798, 802, 218 USPQ 289, 292 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Applicant's arguments, filed 4/11/07, have been fully considered but are not found persuasive. Applicant argues that Pancholi et al. is not available as art.

As set forth previously, because the claimed cells are not supported by the instant specification they are not supported by the priority documents, thus the priority date of the instant application is its filing date, 05/06/1998.

Applicant argues that the cells of the instant claims can be obtained in sufficient quantity for clinical treatment.

It is unclear how this obtaining property is considered to affect the product of the instant claims which is simply a DC.

Applicant argues that the DCs of the reference are less effective T cell stimulators than are the DCs of the instant specification, as demonstrated by Figure 15.

It is unclear how the mouse DCs of the instant specification can be compared to the human DCs of the reference. Further, the experimental methods of the reference are different than are those of the instant specification, e.g., different populations of T cells are employed. Accordingly, no meaningful comparison can be made.

6. The following are new grounds for rejection.

7. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

8. Claims 89, 91, 92, 94, 95, 99, 101, 103-113, 115-121, 140, 141 and newly added Claims 142-144 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as the specification does not contain a

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written description of the claimed invention, in that the disclosure does not reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s) had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed, for the reasons of record. This is a new matter rejection.

The specification and the claims as originally filed do not provide support for the invention as now claimed, specifically, an *in vitro* composition comprising "dendritic cells".

Applicant cites pages 12, 13, 19, 20, 24, 25, 27, 28, and 36 in support of the claimed DCs.

A review of the specification shows that the invention comprises two distinct cell types, DC precursors and mature DCs, having different biological properties. A further invention of the specification is a method of maturing DC precursors into mature DCs. As now recited, the claims encompass all DCs, but the cites offered in support of the claimed DCs disclose methods of producing mature DCs from DC precursors.

9. No claim is allowed.

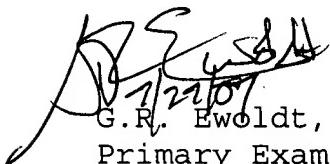
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Gerald Ewoldt whose telephone number is (571) 272-0843. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (571) 272-0841.

11. **Please Note:** Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197.

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G.R. Ewoldt, Ph.D.

Primary Examiner

Technology Center 1600